

DOUGLAS C. McDOUGAL.

JUNE 21, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. KEAN, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3097.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3097) for the relief of Douglas C. McDougal, having considered the same, reports it favorably, and adopts as its report the letter from the Acting Secretary of the Navy, hereto appended and made a part of this report, and recommends that the bill do pass.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 17, 1910.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 6th instant, inclosing a copy of bill (S. 3097) for the relief of Douglas C. McDougal, and requesting that there be forwarded, for the use of the committee, all papers, or copies thereof, on file in this department relating to this claim, with an opinion as to its merits, I have the honor to inform you as follows:

It appears that on June 9, 1909, Capt. Douglas C. McDougal, U. S. Marine Corps, was on duty at the Marine Corps camp of instruction at Sea Girt, N. J., and was properly quartered in the hotel building at that place, which was burned. The statement of an eyewitness, First Lieut. Randolph Coyle, U. S. Marine Corps, of the occurrence is as follows:

"The undersigned, who was stationed at Sea Girt, on June 9, 1909, was an eyewitness to the burning of the hotel, The Breakers, in which Capt. Douglas C. McDougal, U. S. Marine Corps, was quartered. Being within two squares of the above-mentioned hotel when the fire started, I arrived on the scene in time to assist Captain McDougal and other inmates to evacuate the building, and made an effort with Captain McDougal to save what property of his we could, but as the fire had started directly under his room, we were unable to again enter it after it had been left in search of a place of safety, although the attempt was made within five minutes after leaving same.

"The fire was of such a fierce nature that within thirty minutes after it started the building had completely burned to the ground."

There are no papers on file concerning this claim. Captain McDougal had his personal effects and accouterments with him in the building at the time of the above-mentioned fire, and the department considers the claim to be a just one.

Very respectfully,

BEEKMAN WINTHROP,
Acting Secretary of the Navy.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS,
United States Senate.